

SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA

Bulletin No. 1

*Compiled and published by
Subterranea Britannica
and printed by SPRINT of Royston, Herts.*

CONTENTS

Page	2	Report on the Inaugural Meeting.
	2 - 3	Background to the New Society.
	3	Aims of the Society. Excursion.
	4	Message from the Chairman - John Alexander. Editorial.
	5 - 6	Paris Symposium on Souterrains, 1974 - Sylvia P. Beamon.
	7 - 8	A Brief Outline of the Distribution and Characteristics of British Souterrains together with a plan of the Carn Euny Fogou in Cornwall - P. Christie.
	9 - 10	The Caverns at Blackheath, Kent with plan - Julian Watson.
	10 - 12	Basement Dwellings with Graffiti in Royston, Herts., including plan - Christopher Montague et al.
	13	Pilot Local Research Scheme. Current Fieldwork.
	14	Letters from Members. Requests for Information.
	15	Definitions for New Members.
	16	Bibliography. Book Comments.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers:

Prof. Glyn Daniel, Litt.D., F.B.A. - Honorary President.
John Alexander, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A. - Chairman.
John Garrod, M.A., Ph.D. - Treasurer, 8 Back Lane, Godden Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. (Tel: Sevenoaks 61087)
Neil Beacham - Honorary Librarian. (Co-opted)
Pamela Goodey - General Secretary, 52 Poplar Drive, Royston, Herts. (Tel: Royston 43382)
Sylvia Beamon - Publication Secretary, 16 Honeyway, Royston, Herts. (Tel: Royston 42120)

Elected Committee members:

Alan Fleck, Cecil J. Bourne, Richard Maxwell-Comfort.

Co-opted Committee members

Christopher Montague - Young People's Representative.
Daphne Duncan, Publicity Officer, 1 Hollies Close, Royston, Herts. (Tel: Royston 41066)

REPORT ON THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA

The inauguration of SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA took place on September, 21st 1974, at a Conference held at Emmanuel College, Cambridge under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. C. Smail, M.B.E., Ph.D., F.S.A. The Society was constituted, like its sister French and German Societies, to promote interest and research throughout the British Isles into artificial souterrains, especially those related to manors, castles, and other such dwellings.

Apologies for absence were received from Professor Glyn Daniel, Litt.D., F.B.A. who agreed to be Honorary President and was detained in France, and Professor Raymond Mauny, President of Société Française d'Étude des Souterrains who had hoped to attend. They, and Professor R. F. Hodson, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A. of the Institute of Archaeology sent their good wishes for the success of the new Society.

Mrs. Sylvia Beamon outlined the aims of the Society before Mr. Desmond Hennessy, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E., M.Cons.E., gave a resumé on the activities of the London Subterranean Survey Association.

After lunch Mrs. P. Christie, F.S.A., gave a stimulating lecture on The Souterrains or 'Fogou' of Cornwall. She was followed by Mr. Julian Watson on, The Blackheath Cavern. Finally, Mr. Alan MacCormick showed slides on The Cellars and Underground Caves of Nottingham.

THE BACKGROUND TO THE NEW SOCIETY

The study of all kinds of underground man-made cavities in Great Britain, as elsewhere, has been much neglected.

There were several early antiquaries, Spurrell and Yonge Akerman, to name but two, who wrote various articles in Journals during the second half of the 19th century on subterranean structures. Yonge Akerman himself pointed out that in Camden's time, between 1551 and 1623, there was interest in underground pits, but then remarked, "... while our ignorance of their present state is a reproach to us..." and he was of course, referring to his own time of 1851 in an article for the Journal of the Society of Antiquaries of London (Vol: XXXIV).

In 1911, S. Baring-Gould published his Cliff-Castles and Cave-Dwellings of Europe, but it would appear that little attention has been paid to the subject since. The Council for British Archaeology have expressed interest in the establishment of such a body as ourselves, which they say, will certainly be dealing with a field that has not been studied very fully up to the present time in our country.

From the Aims of Société Française d'Étude des Souterrains, we learn that just after World War I, in 1923 a book appeared in France which served as a basis of the research which interests us today, entitled Les Souterrains - Refuges de la France. This was a contribution to the history of human habitation by Adrien Blanchet; it remained for many decades the main work of reference on the subject.

In France and Spain researchers took up the study again after the last war, realising that in reality it was a lot more complex than Blanchet

had thought, for in addition to shelter, there are many reasons why men hollowed beneath the ground. It is to the credit of Maurice Broëns, that using the medium of his revue Chthonia published in Barcelona, he showed the great importance of their cultural function. Some of the souterrains he has named 'Hypogees' contrary to the previous way of labelling all of them as 'refuges'. They are in reality used as tombs or refuge, sometimes both simultaneously or successively, and perhaps for other things as well. It is rare to find in souterrains material which allows us to ascertain their exact functions; was the pottery intentionally broken to honour the dead or some underworld god? Or more prosaically, unintentionally by their successive users?

The French Souterrain Society has been in existence for the last ten years and quarterly produce the Bulletin Subterranea. The German Society, Arbeitskreis für Erdstallforschung, after being the hosts at Roding for the July 1973 International Symposium, were formally constituted in the November. Their first Bulletin, Der Erdstall is shortly to be published. Contact is being made with interested groups in other countries.

THE AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

Our present task is to pioneer and promote the recovery and inventory County by County by studying old maps, books, historical and archaeological journals, even listening to elderly people with local knowledge of their area, of all these man-made underground structures.

The subjects for research are certainly not lacking, but first we have to learn the necessary techniques to establish recovery for there are difficult conditions which face us under the ground; this is where the expert knowledge of potholers and speleologists will be of great value to us. We will attempt to distinguish a funerary hypogeum from a refuge; a habitation from a mine gallery or an aquaduct, and even a refuse pit from a store pit or grain silo.

On the Continent it has been agreed to name these excavations by a neutral term which does not imply exclusive interpretation, souterrain aménagé (elaborated souterrain). In English, we do not have an equivalent word.

The Society, like its' Continental associates, is open to all, and it is not necessary to be professionally concerned to join, therefore we cordially welcome anyone who may be interested in the subject.

Subterranea Britannica will hold a Day Conference each September, also a further meeting in January. Early summer may be a suitable time for excursions (see below) although it is appreciated that some members may not in actual fact wish to go underground. There will also be the opportunity of joining the French and German Societies at the Annual Conference always held about the 14th July.

GRIMES GRAVES, ANCIENT FLINT MINES

It is proposed that there will be a visit to Grimes Graves, Norfolk on SATURDAY, 3RD MAY. Please write for further details from: Christopher Montague, 62 Newmarket Road, Royston, Herts.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is a pleasure to be able to speak to you from the first edition of the Bulletin. You will see from it that your Committee has been most active since the meeting which founded the Society, and that both in organisation and in active fieldwork it is beginning to promote all kinds of 'underground' studies.

News is continually coming in to us of the destruction of sites and the foundation of local groups to save information, where no existing provision exists, is one of our main tasks. Local groups skilled in recording, by photography, measurement, and where necessary, by archaeological information are essential and as you will see in the Bulletin the first local project has already taken shape.

Our other main task is to bring together all interested in the subject so that knowledge and experience can be exchanged. This we hope to do through the Bulletin and our regular meetings and Conferences, and we hope that you will add your contribution either in writing or by speaking. The wider, European, experience will be brought to you by our close links with the National Societies in France and Germany.

I feel that the future of the Society is a bright one and that you, the foundation members, are sharing an exciting and fast developing research project.

John Alexander
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

EDITORIAL

The Bulletin will be issued twice a year, in January and August, and will resemble the French Society Bulletin SUBTERRANEA. A similar format will be maintained from issue to issue but there will be a different Editor each time, nominated from the Executive Committee; this it is hoped will stimulate new ideas and interest.

It is requested that members contribute articles on the underground cavities of which they have experience, and of those recorded in earlier Journals that may be relocated during research.

At the end of each Bulletin specific research questions can be asked, again please write in to me, Mrs. Sylvia P. Beamon, Publication Secretary, 16 Honeyway, Royston, Herts. SG8 7ES. It is hoped there will be an exchange of information and that answers will be forthcoming from the various experts in their respective fields.

We are fortunate to have the services of Mr. Keith Nash, B.Sc., F.C.I.P.A., a Chartered Patent Agent who lives in Cambridge, who will be delighted to help with copyright problems on articles that members may want to publish.

Sylvia P. Beamon.
EDITOR.

THE PARIS SYMPOSIUM ON SOUTERRAINS, 1974

Between July 12th and 15th, an International Symposium was held in Paris for the Société Française d'Étude des Souterrains. Mrs. Sylvia Beamon of Royston was invited to attend by the President Professor Raymond Mauny of the Sorbonne, to present a paper on British Souterrains and Other Underground Structures.

The General Assembly convened in the Musée des Arts et Traditions Populaires situated in the Bois de Boulogne on the Friday morning, when the President opened the meeting and gave his address.

Amongst the various papers given were those of:

Monsieur Fourdrin who illustrated with slides the area we were to visit in the North of France and explained that frequently refuges were entered from churches where, besides people, animals were often accommodated.

Monsieur Serge Avrilleau discussed the important matter of classification of the structures and various combinations were put forward, but no final decision was made at this meeting.

Dr. Poitel read three papers, the first was on natural and unnatural grottos of the prehistoric period in Portugal. The second drew attention to the connection between dwarfs and souterrains. Little people in the past had been useful for sweeping chimneys and digging wells. He pointed out that in the U.S.A. today there is an association for dwarfs with a membership of 100,000. His last paper referred to the Denezé engravings illustrated on the cover of the French popular journal Archeologia, Document No. 2. This site at present is under excavation and is assumed to be an underground shrine of some cult and the need for secrecy being the Inquisition.

Herr Karl Schwarzfischer, President of Arbeitskreis für Erdstallforschung, spoke on a supposed cult which necessitated passing through small apertures thought perhaps to cure illness. It also appeared that there had been a ritual breaking of bottles and a quern. Whether it was a fertility rite or funerary cult is not known, but he thought these were possible reasons why the church had ordered souterrains to be filled in.

Herr Von Eberstein proposed a connection between souterrains and the religion of the Three Sisters. This was a fertility cult, in Roman times, especially for women who wanted to have several children, and they were sometimes depicted as saints in Christian churches (but not accepted by authority); for example in Ireland as St. Catherine, St. Margaret and St. Therese; in Germany as the three matrons, Grandmother, Mother and Daughter, also the Grimm brothers' stories have various connotations. He would be interested to hear whether there were any similar cults in Britain?

Monsieur L'Abbé P. Nollent, Honorary President and founder member of the French Society made comparison between Denezé La Roche in the south of France and where we were to visit the following day, and demonstrated with slides how a small hole on the ground surface could be deceptive giving entrance to a large complex below

Mrs. Beamon gave the British paper which touched very briefly on the Royston Cave, but it was requested that the slides of this most unusual monument be shown when there was particular interest in the unique carvings and symbols. Most of the members present had read the article L'Énigmatique Cave aux Sculptures de Royston which had been published in Archeologia, Document No. 2 - June, 1973. This publication was specifically devoted to souterrains in Europe and had been produced to co-incide with last year's Symposium held at Roding in Germany.

Other papers were given by Messieur Razes, Saumaunde and Avrilleau. It was also reported that the Métro in Paris at the present time is being extended and archaeologists are examining various souterrains, but in the past the words used to describe them 'crypts' and 'catacombs' has meant they have not been considered as possible dwellings. The situation is now being reviewed in the light of the new excavations.

On Saturday afternoon, after all the papers had been presented, the Assembly broke up and the study tour of souterrains began. The first stop was at Bavai - St. Vaast la Vallée where a souterrain was situated at the side of a mine. Pottery dating from the 9th - 10th century was on display, also several skulls which had been found nearby. At the next place, St. Aubert, we examined a souterrain beneath a 12th century Medieval Fortress including a fosse (a offrandes). From St. Aubert we travelled to Arras, near the Belgian border for an overnight rest, where in the morning the party watched the parade for July 14th, Bastille Day. On every British war grave a flower is placed by the children of the various villages close by in remembrance of the British who defended the area. Before leaving this town, we visited one of the extensive souterrains underneath the Place de Préfecture, and besides a lot of graffiti scratched on the walls there were several heads cut in the chalk, thought to have been carved some time between the 12th and 14th century.

The tour continued to Domqueur to visit a souterrain which had 37 chambers, with an entrance like many of them, near the church. At the time of the Spanish invasion in the 16th century, there had been room for every family in the village to be allocated a chamber. The defenders of the area also had their families accommodated below, therefore giving them confidence in the knowledge that their own kin were protected too. We carried onto Hiermont, where again near the church was a similar souterrain to that at Domqueur. Finally we arrived at Naours (Somme) which has now become commercialised, with good reason, because below ground is a remarkable city used in the past for refuge that has the astounding number of 300 chambers and was rediscovered in 1887.

Many of the souterrains had been used in the last war as evidenced by the names of German and those of the Allied Forces, that were intermingled and scratched on the sandstone or chalk surfaces.

Next year's Symposium is to be held either at Bergerac, in the Dordogne or at Chinon, in the Loire Valley in mid July. No further details are available at present, but it is hoped that as our Society grows more people will be able to attend this annual Conference; such meetings are invaluable for the exchange of views.

Sylvia P. Beamon.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE DISTRIBUTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF BRITISH
SOUTERRAINS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THOSE IN CORNWALL.

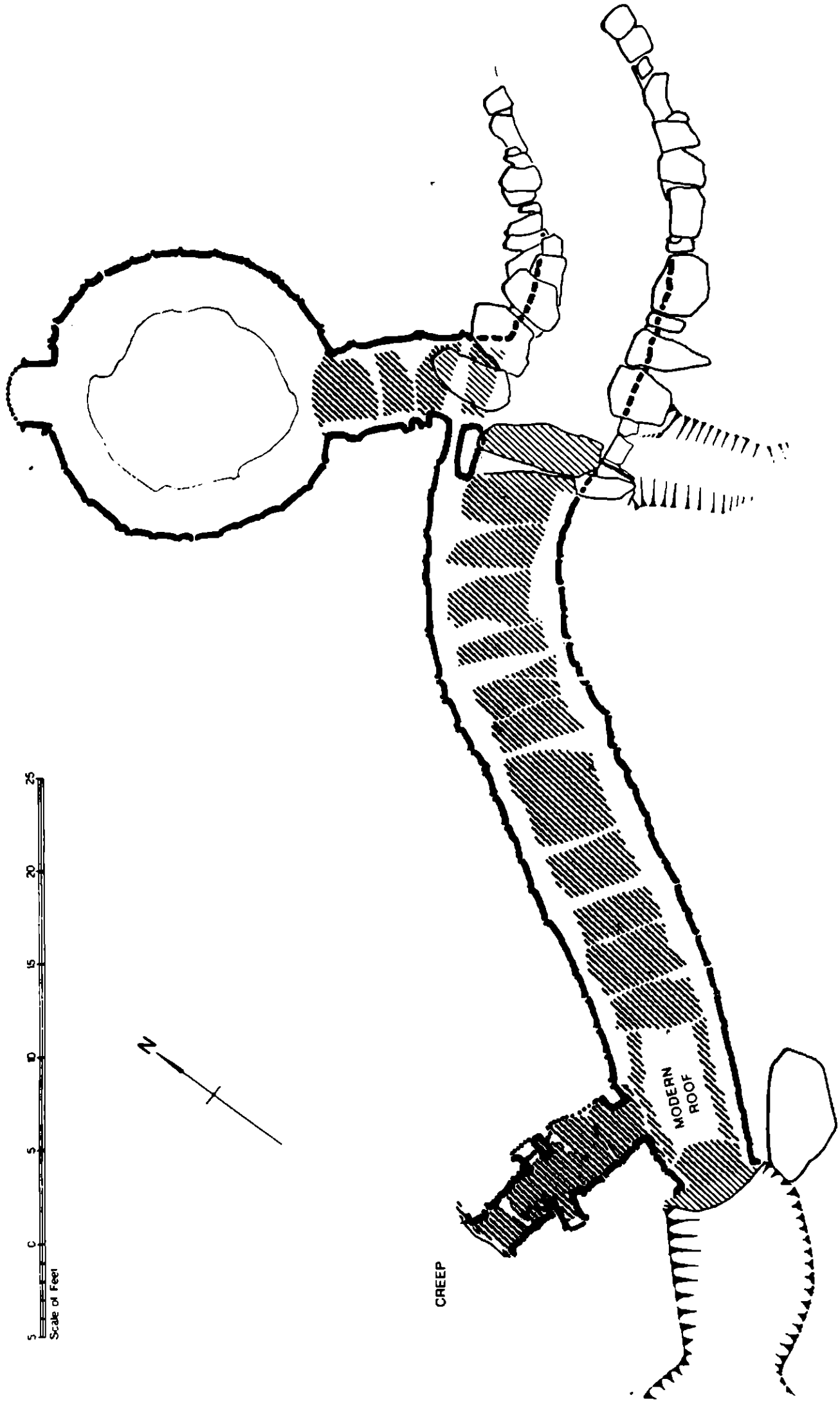
Subterranean, semi-subterranean and a few above-ground stone-built structures dating from the Iron Age are known from three areas of Britain - Scotland, Ireland and Cornwall. Their distribution is not only restricted to these areas, but to specific regions within them. Everywhere souterrains are associated with settlements, especially those enclosed by small, univallate earthworks - the 'raths' of Ireland, the 'rounds' of Cornwall - and isolated souterrains are rare. They vary enormously in plan, ranging from a simple, usually curving passage, with or without a subsidiary chamber, to the elaborate arrangement of passages and chambers such as the more complex Irish examples. All are built of dry-stone walling and roofed with large slabs. Iron Age, Roman and post-Roman material is commonly found, while medieval and later pottery is frequent in those which have remained open through the centuries. The earliest souterrains, however, belong to the beginning of the Iron Age in western Britain and Ireland though they were still being built in Scotland during Roman times and possibly later, sometimes re-using Roman stonework, and in Ireland during the early Christian era.

The Iron Age souterrains of Cornwall were then discussed, known as Fogous (from a late Cornish word 'fogo' meaning a cave) and showed a number of slides of the well-preserved example within the Iron Age village of Carn Euny (Sancreed) near Penzance. This semi-subterranean structure, recently excavated by the Department of Environment, was built in two stages: first a circular chamber, corbelled inward, with a low short entrance passage onto which a later passage and small subsidiary passage was added. The walls of the later curving passage were corbelled inward and roofed with massive granite capstones. The associated settlement and deposits within the Fogou have produced dating evidence for occupation from the 5th century BC. until the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD. Comparisons were made with souterrains in other areas, particularly those across the Channel in Brittany.

Much has been written about the function of souterrains - from hide-outs and refuges in time of trouble, to cellars for storage of goods and even live-stock. The latter view is most in favour nowadays, though the origins must be multiple, anyhow in Cornwall where some may have served originally as cult centres. The building of souterrains by certain groups in widely separated areas must have been linked with some definite cultural tradition which is hard to isolate after so long. Also, far more detailed information is needed on the monuments themselves and their context, which can be collated and published in a form readily available to others. It is hoped that this is one area in which the newly formed Subterranea Britannica and its journal may play an active role.

P. Christie.

The adjacent plan is of the Carn Euny Fogou, Cornwall and has also been stylised for the cover of the Bulletin.

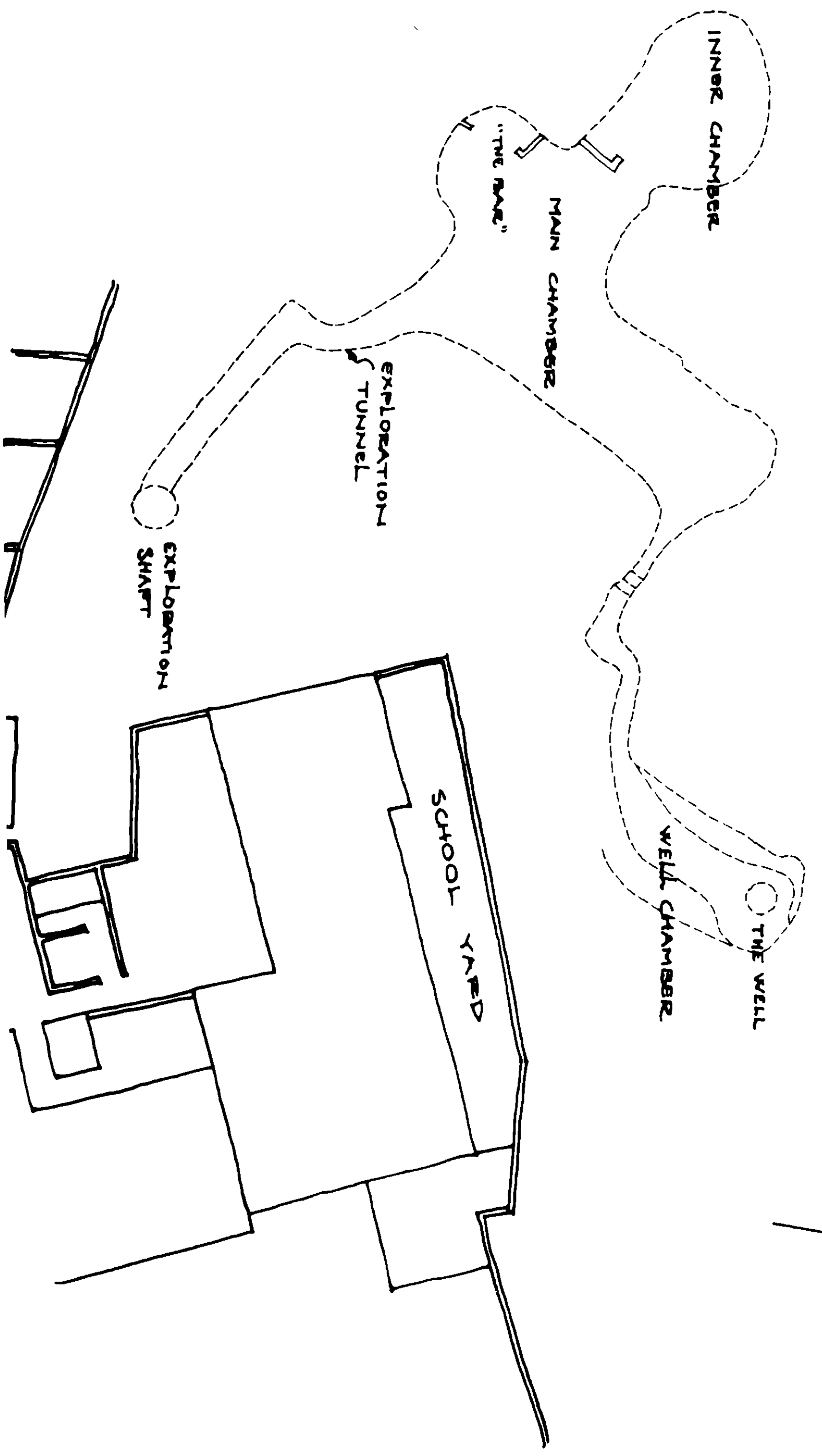


PLAN OF THE FOGOOU

FROM:-
GREENWICH LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY
MARTIN COLLECTION



GARDEN OF 79 BLACKHEATH HILL



THE CAVERNS AT BLACKHEATH, KENT.

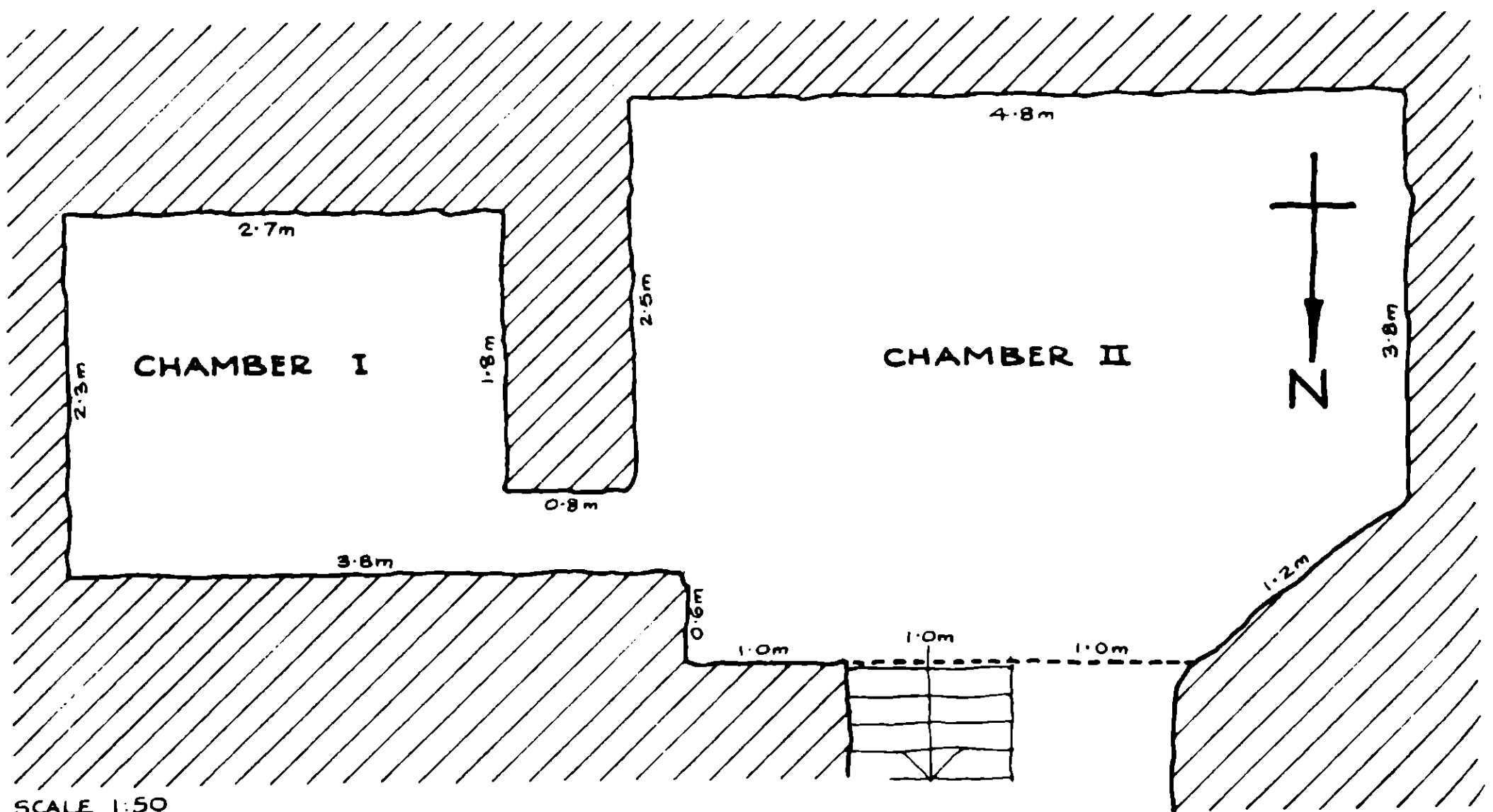
The Blackheath Cavern in Maidenstone Hill was discovered in 1780 by a builder making foundations for a house. Its proximity to Blackheath, the scene of several famous rebellions, and its large size generated many extravagant legends about its origin. The Danes, the Saxons, Jack Cade and his followers and the Levellers were numbered among its supposed occupants and its construction has been attributed to Celtic and earlier societies.

Its origins are, however, more prosaic. The three chambers were almost certainly excavated in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries by the Steers, a family of lime burners who had kilns nearby. This is revealed in letters written about 1750 by the Treasurer of Morden College, Blackheath to the Chief Steward of the Royal Manor of East Greenwich concerning the disputed ownership of Maidenstone Hill.

Until it was closed in 1853 the three great chambers, measuring 58' x 30' x 12', 27' x 21' x 6' and 29' x 16' x 6' were used as places for drinking and entertainment and also as a tourist attraction; one of the main features being a well of pure water in one of the chambers.

In 1939 Greenwich Borough Council re-opened the cavern intending to use it as an air raid shelter. It was found to be unsuitable for this purpose and was finally sealed up in 1946. Fortunately, detailed and accurate plans were made prior to its closure in 1853 and also in 1946 when the chambers were photographed.

Julian Watson
Local History Librarian.
London Borough of Greenwich.



CELLAR UNDER 7 BALDOCK STREET, ROYSTON

BASEMENT DWELLINGS WITH GRAFFITI IN ROYSTON, HERTFORDSHIRE

The reason for the interest in these cellars is that it is known from elderly inhabitants that some cellars were used as living quarters within living memory. It is maintained they were warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer than the prevailing outside temperatures.

A cellar of two chambers has been examined below the Architects' premises of Misselbrook and Thompson in the Baldock Road, the measurements of which are shown on the accompanying plan. The cellar is cut straight into the chalk as are most beneath earlier buildings in Royston.

Chamber I (2.7 m. x 2.3 m.)

Along the North wall are two separate series of indentations. At a level 2 m. from the floor are four 0.1 m. x 0.1 m. square holes with a horizontal depth of 0.2 m., the average distance between each being 0.4 m. Above are a row of round holes of similar dimensions, but where originally there had been four, one has been filled in with concrete. The square holes are reflected on the South wall but are not exactly opposite. There is a row of three on the East wall, and the same number are present on the West. The two architects who were present at the preliminary examination considered they might have been for the original floor level. There are two corner shallow, narrow grooves on the same level as the top round holes between the North/East and East/South walls, both measuring 0.6 m. in length. Another similar one occurs on the South wall but does not actually curve into the corner like the former two.

An irregular vertical groove (0.5 m. from floor) is on the North wall and being .8 m. from the corner, another of corresponding size is found on the South wall. The reason for these is unknown, they are not opposite each other, however it is noted other cellars in the town have grooves of this nature too. No bricking occurs in this chamber at all.

There are no niches for lighting purposes but there is a ridge (banquette) on the East wall which possibly was used to place a lamp on because above appears a streaked blackened area. A niche was observed on the South wall of the dividing short passage between the two chambers which might have been used, although the amount of light thrown would have been poor.

Various graffiti is scratched on the walls including a possible date, 15?? but only the first two numbers are clearly discernible. There are several small human figures, heads on their own and what appear to be skulls. On the West wall is a small cross with a head above. Photographs and rubbings of these have been taken.

Chamber II (4.8 m. x 3.85 m.)

Although cut in the chalk, it does have two courses of bricking on the irregular walls varying from 1.8 m. on the East wall to 2.2 m. on the West wall from the floor level.

This chamber is considerably larger than the first one and the most interesting feature here was an area on the South wall. Bricking starts 1 m. from the floor and continues all the way along except where it is broken by an arch which has a large packed block of earth and chalk, similar in composition to material found during September in another cellar in Kneesworth Street which formed an actual wall, together with five large chalk blocks. Along the same wall is a modern bricked coal shute. Two niches, assumed to be for lighting, are in this cellar and no graffiti is evident. Again there are two vertical grooves on the South and West walls, being 0.3 m. and 0.6 m. respectively.

Christopher Montague
Hilary Roberts
Pamela Goodey
Sylvia Beamon.



Grffiti on north cellar wall at 7, Baldock Street, Royston. - Dec '74

PILOT LOCAL RESEARCH SCHEME

One of Subterranea Britannica's major tasks in the future is building up a catalogue of British souterrains with all available supporting documentary and visual evidence.

The information contained in the catalogue will come from a great variety of sources; from interested individuals, archaeologists, allied societies and old records. In many cases, however, Subterranea Britannica will have to seek material in order to produce a comprehensive survey of particularly concentrated areas such as ancient town centres.

Such surveys will need careful planning and for this reason the Executive Committee have appointed a Sub-Committee to co-ordinate and organise Subterranea Britannica's first detailed Field Study which will be of Royston, Herts., a town where a great number of underground structures are known to exist. (see pp. 10 - 12)

This Study is an experiment, and therefore both expert and amateur help is necessary to make it a success. It is hoped that detailed planning will commence in March and field work in June.

Would anyone interested in helping, please contact:

R. Maxwell-Comfort,
"Swift Cottage",
Abington Piggots,
Nr. Royston, Herts.
(Tel: Steeple Morden 852522 evenings)

CURRENT FIELDWORK

FOWLMERE, Cambridge.

A most interesting passage has been examined from a cellar of the Old Manor House. It has been hewn out of the chalk and runs under the road to a cellar in a cottage on the opposite side.

ROYSTON, Kneesworth Street.

A cellar, possibly much older than the superstructure, was found under a 17th century cottage attached to a forge and has been the source of close co-operation between several members of Subterranea Britannica and Mr. M. G. Burleigh, Field Officer for Letchworth Museum. Rescue work was undertaken when it was discovered that there were no architectural or photographic records of the entire building, which was under imminent demolition.

Further details of both projects will appear in future Bulletins.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Extract of a letter sent in by Mrs. Greta Maxwell-Comfort.

"One of the largest and most unusual properties I have heard of has just come on the market - but potential buyers will not be able to see much of it unless they go underground. It was reported by Robert Langton from the Evening Standard dated Thursday, October 10th 1974.

Agents Henry Butcher and Co. have the tough task of finding a buyer for two vast subterranean ammunition dumps in Wiltshire - the floor area of nearly 2,000,000 sq. ft. is equal to nearly twelve times the amount of space to be found in London's Centre Point office block.

Both depots, covering a total of more than 70 acres, are known as Eastleys and Monkton Farleigh, near Bath. They were bought by the War Department in the late 1930's after being used earlier as Bath stone quarries.

It is difficult to imagine what the complex conveyor and shaft systems leading to the ammunition store areas could be used for. Mushroom growing or general storage are two suggestions, but it is so difficult to find a use for the whole area, and with this in mind the closing date for tenders is not until May 2nd next year."

.....

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Professor Raymond Mauny, President of S.F.E.S. has requested that the following questions be asked of our members. Information sent to the Editor will be forwarded to Professor Mauny.

1. Do we have souterrains under medieval earthen mottes that preceded stone castles on the Welsh frontier? Professor Mauny thinks the insecurity that existed on that border may have produced the same results as they are discovering in Central France.
2. Ice houses (glacières): This matter was brought up at this year's Symposium in Paris. Information is wanted on what we call Ice Houses, or Caves (in Scotland) and sometimes referred to as Ice Storage Pits. These pits were used prior to 1914 before electrical and chemical freezing, and knowledge of them of course, is still within living memory. Notes are required of the places where they exist or existed? For what purpose they were used, butchery, pastry, ices, vegetables etc.? Where did the ice come from? For what period of time were they used? Early mentions and references are also required.

In future issues there will be questionnaires for members to return if they have knowledge relevant to the subject under discussion, in order that there can be an exchange of information both here and on the Continent.

DEFINITIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS
(THESE WILL BE ADDED TO IN FUTURE ISSUES.)

- CATACOMB:** A subterranean burial-place, especially at Rome, in which many of the early Christians held services and were buried. More recently, any place with recesses for storing books, wine etc.
- COLUMBARIUM:** Latin for a kind of sepulchral chamber, usually a rectangular structure built around an open court and lined with niches in which the urns containing the ashes of cremated bodies were laid up. Became obsolete (117-38 AD.) in the reign of Hadrian when inhumation gradually superseded cremation.
- DENEHOLES:** Vertical shafts with galleries or chambers below. 'Denu' - Anglo-Saxon word - which implies a hidden dwelling or den. Found everywhere in southern England in chalk districts.
- FLINT MINES:** Dug by man to obtain flint. Two types exist; simple pits, open-cast mining for nodules; or circular shaft sometimes as deep as 33 m. where galleries were excavated in various directions upon the level of the tabular flint (e.g. Grimes Graves, Norfolk and Cissbury, Sussex.)
- FOGOU:** Name given to souterrains in Cornwall, from a late Cornish word 'fogo' meaning a cave.
- FOSSA:** Latin for a pit, depression or ditch.
- FOSSULA:** A small depression or groove.
- FOSSETTE:** A small fossa.
- MARL PITS:** Dug to obtain chalk for 'marling' (lightening the soil in), fields.
- OUBLIETTE:** French, from oublier to forget. Sometimes found in medieval castles; a dungeon into which prisoners were thrown.
- REFUGE:** A specialised use of this in French is for caves (natural or artificial) used as shelter or protection from danger or trouble.
- SOUTERRAINS:** Used to describe any kind of underground man-made structure.
- STORAGE PIT:** A bell shaped pit, often lined with clay or basketry, sometimes used for grain, and then called an underground granary or silo. These could, as in Poland in recent times be 12 m. (three storeys) deep.
- TROGLODYTES:** General Greek name for uncivilised cave-dwellers of the Caucasus, Ethiopia and along the southern Red Sea coast, south of Egypt. A general term for cave-dwellers, today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Society intend to maintain a bibliography and members will be regularly informed of books or articles brought to our attention.

Some suggested reading:

ARCHEOLOGIA Document No. 2, Les Souterrains, Paris, June 1973
(Address: Archeologia, B.P. 682 - 21008 DIJON CEDEX)

S. BARING-GOULD Cliff Castles and Cave-Dwellings of Europe
(Seeley) London, 1911.

EVELYN CLARK Cornish Fogous, London, 1961.

C. W. CRASKE Transactions of the Greenwich & Lewisham Antiquarian Society... for 1939 - 1947, Vol: IV No.3. - Article 'Visit to the Blackheath Cavern.' (The Blackheath Press) London, 1948.

JEREMY ERRAND Secret Passages and Hiding Places (David & Charles) Newton Abbot, 1974.

J. GRANVILLE-SQUIERS Secret Hiding Places (Stanley Paul & Co.) London, 1932.

BOOK COMMENTS

Secret Passages and Hiding Places by Jeremy Errand (David & Charles) 1974 price £2.50p.

Mrs. Goodey reports that this book examines the myth and reality of tales of such, beginning with an account of secret passages and hiding places. It then goes on to relate and explain the background to lost sally ports in castles, medieval indoor drains, priest 'holes' during the 16th and 17th centuries and bomb shelters built for modern Civil Defence purposes.

Christopher Montague has also read the book and feels that although it covers quite a large range of subjects, from moving beams and false stairs to secret passages descending vertically from some chimneys before leading to the outside, it does not in actual fact go into them in any great detail. This book is possibly more suitable for newcomers to the subject than experienced workers in the field.

----- FOOTNOTE:

Included with this issue of the Bulletin are copies of the adopted Constitution together with a glossary of French/German/English words for the technical terms. It is hoped to use the illustrated Continental examples of underground structures for comparison with our own in this country. This will also keep down printing costs and the time involved having the plans redrawn and translated. It is anticipated that an international terminology will be created for future recording purposes. The stylised cover and the other artwork necessary for this edition was kindly executed by Richard and Greta Maxwell-Comfort.

